

Region 6 - 2012 Plan

Administrator's Priorities

1. *Taking Action on Climate Change*
2. *Improving Air Quality*
3. *Cleaning Up Our Communities*
4. *Assuring the Safety of Chemicals*
5. *Protecting America's Waters*
6. *Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice*
7. *Building Strong State and Tribal Partnerships*



Looking ahead

"As we enter into 2012 we'll continue our efforts to bring about real results in the communities we serve--improving air quality, protecting our waters, cleaning up our communities and working for environmental justice. I am confident that working with our partners, we'll meet these challenges successfully."

- **Sam Coleman**
Acting Regional Administrator

Taking Action on Climate Change

Promote innovative energy projects to meet the nation's energy needs:

- Recruit 20 new WaterSense partners
- Partner with Border Environment Cooperation Commission to host 2 workshops with utilities along the US/Mexico border
- Process State UIC program revision applications incorporating new Geologic sequestration injection well rules
- Champion Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance following standards for green meetings/conferences
- Facilitate the development of GHG and other emission reduction's Regional strategy with industry and communities
- Implement GHG Permitting Program in TX
- Implement GHG SIP for Albuquerque
- Oversee 5 Climate Showcase Community Grants showing energy and GHG benefits
- Produce updated draft electric sector SIP manual
- Partner with 20 agencies to implement the Federal Green Challenge
- Develop partnerships with two metropolitan areas that will result in E3 projects in 2013

Improving Air Quality

Ensure clean air for communities:

- Conduct 35 CAA compliance evaluations of facilities in or affecting nonattainment areas
- Initiate CAA enforcement actions at facilities in non-compliance in or affecting nonattainment areas
- Conduct compliance evaluations at oil & gas sector facilities
- Track all deflexed permits and conduct a detailed review of at least 10 permits
- Ensure applications for SIP approved transition permits are submitted by 90% of flexible permit holders, and one-third of 30 largest emitters have reviews completed
- Partner to develop a portable sensor monitor for detection of benzene and 1,3-butadiene for fence line communities
- Conduct air monitoring program Technical System Audits for NMED and City of Albuquerque

- Work with States to develop federally approvable clean air plans in Baton Rouge, West Memphis, DFW, Houston, and Frisco
- Implement Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools in 50 schools in LA & OK, impacting over 25,000 students, teachers, and support staff
- Educate 200 Building professional about Indoor airPlus, Radon, Lead RRP, WaterSense, and Energy Star
- Educate 400 children, parents, elderly and caregivers on indoor environmental risks
- Train 20 health care professionals on indoor environmental risks
- Reduce hazardous air pollutant emissions from 18 incinerators, boilers and halogen acid furnaces burning hazardous waste

Cleaning Up Our Communities

Make land available for Reuse:

- Conduct 125 Brownfields property assessments
- Cleanup 10 Brownfields properties
- Coordinate and facilitate the development of Brownfields plan for North Tulsa
- Complete 2 NPL remedy constructions, complete 8 remedial action projects, control groundwater migration at 1 site, make 7 sites ready for reuse, achieve human health protection at 2 sites, and make 140 site assessment decisions
- Complete 17 Superfund-lead removal action responses
- Reach settlement or take enforcement action before the start of remedial action at 95% of Superfund sites with viable, liable PRPs
- Issue 2 RfR Determinations promoting RCRA facility revitalization
- Complete corrective action construction at 27 priority RCRA sites
- Control human exposure to toxins at 18 priority RCRA facilities
- Control migration of contaminated groundwater at 17 additional priority RCRA facilities
- Complete 6 PCB evaluations for landfills, commercial storage facilities, disposal facilities and remediation actions

Assuring the Safety of Chemicals

Prioritize decisions to maximize environmental benefits:

- Conduct 119 risk management plan audits
- Conduct 8 exercises to improve emergency preparedness at the Federal, State, and Local level



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to accomplish these priorities:*

- Achieve Agency Core National Approach to Response score of 80% or better and 725 or better on core COOP Assessment Tool

Protecting children where they live, learn and play:

- Educate more than 1,000 businesses and people on Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule
- Educate more than 1,000 people on lead poisoning prevention
- Educate farm workers on the risk of take home pesticide exposure and ways to reduce the risk

Protecting America's Waters

Ensure safe drinking water:

- Ensure 93% of the population served by community water systems will receive drinking water meeting all health-based standards (person-month basis)
- Develop and provide analytical capability for contaminants associated with hydraulic fracturing
- Conduct 1 water response exercise by December 2012
- Develop a drought resource page, covering Regional drought issues and communicate findings
- Work with State partners to address/resolve 263 significant noncompliant public water systems
- Issue OK CAFO general permit
- Work with States to utilize fish consumption rates that ensure safe Water Quality Standards levels of protection for children, tribal citizens and those heavily depended on fish/food subsistence

Provide leadership to restore and protect watersheds and coastal waters:

- Complete NM, OK, TX water quality standards submittal reviews
- Coordinate updated human health water quality standards with OK;
- Host a nutrient Regional Technical Assistance Group meeting with States; facilitate Nutrient Criteria Development Plan updates by end of 2012
- Develop water quality benchmarks for bioaccumulative toxic pollutants protecting fish, shellfish and wildlife
- Participate in CWPRA to address restoration by vetting 15 new coastal restoration projects with LA citizens and local governments
- Maintain an NPDES permit currency rate of greater than 94%
- Issue Albuquerque, NM 1 MS4 and 1 POTW permit
- Complete all actions required under LA's TMDLs consent decree by March 31, 2012
- Approve 200 TMDLs
- Partner with agencies to reduce the improper disposal of pharmaceuticals; hold 3 unused medicine take-back events
- Issue Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas general permit
- Issue Texas Territorial Seas Oil & Gas general permit
- Issue Texas Coastal Waters Oil & Gas general permit
- Review 10 mitigation banking instruments

- Complete 30 wetland inspections and pursue appropriate enforcement
- Reduce number of National Water Program Guidance measures by 15%
- Conduct 80% of the CAFO inspections in impaired watersheds or in response to citizen complaints
- Conduct 60% of the NPDES inspections in impaired watersheds or in sensitive water bodies
- Implement the Regional SSO enforcement strategy for 2 priority municipal systems

Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice

Partner with vulnerable communities to address concerns related to environmental justice priorities:

- Develop 1 new community action plan for a priority EJ community
- Assist City of Port Arthur with implementation of the Environmental Quality and Emergency Response and the Health Care Work Groups
- Assist with implementation of Corpus Christi Community Action Plan
- Promote environmental education and outreach to 1,000 people
- Complete required consultation with Navajo Nation and Region 9 regarding uranium aquifer exemption issues
- Complete consultation with Taos Pueblo on NPDES permitting action
- Address drinking water quality issues with Panola County, TX residents
- Address UIC issues with new Leadership of the Osage Nation
- Issue CAA enforcement actions at facilities in non-compliance affecting impacted communities
- Hold open house on lead issues in Frisco, TX on May 21, 2012

Improving the environment along the US/Mexico Border

- Disburse \$7M through BEIF grants; providing 1,000 new safe drinking water service connections and 9,000 new wastewater connections
- Complete the Community Needs Inventory for EJ 2014 element "Fostering Administration-Wide Action on EJ"
- Partner with Texas A&M, San Elizario ISD, and Colonia San Elizario community to break ground on community garden project
- Remove 800,000 tires from legacy piles
- Eliminate 50 tons of e-waste through recycling collection events
- Promote pesticide safety to prevent occupational farm worker and/or children's exposure
- Facilitate emergency response equipment donation and training for Ojinaga and Ciudad Rio Bravo, Mexico
- Participate in 1 binational emergency response exercise
- Assist in the revisions of 3 Sister City Contingency Plans
- Facilitate binational Hazmat risk mapping along the US/Mexico border



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Building Strong State and Tribal Partnerships

Addressing State Priorities:

- Assist States and utilities to address requirements impacting electrical generating units
- Assist States with limited resources with administration of water and wastewater programs
- Work with States, tribes and stakeholders to develop Illinois River Watershed Model
- Work with States and tribes on regional haze
- Work with States and tribes on removal of LANL transuranic waste
- Work with State and tribes to mitigate impacts of drought on water resources
- Work with States to streamline state authorization programs
- Work with State on minimizing grant performance reports
- Identify areas of reduced expectations in grants that reduce funding to States
- Complete review and approval for OK Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Forestry to assume implementation of CAFO and Pesticides NPDES Program
- Develop recommendations for UIC regulators injection induced seismicity
- Hold MS4 Conference for States and municipalities
- Hold Pretreatment Conference for States and municipalities
- Hold 2 States meetings with UST inspection managers to increase compliance, prevention releases and cleanup of petroleum releases
- Conduct a meeting with state oil and natural gas regulatory agencies to enhance communication and understanding of agency priorities and initiatives
- Provide funding to Region 6 applicants for Diesel Emission Reduction Program; complete national DERA competition
- Conduct a State Review Framework review with TCEQ
- Work with LA Department of Agriculture and LDEQ to educate broiler producers on CAFO program requirements
- Work with TCEQ, state and Federal funding agencies on drinking water requirements at public water supply systems

Safeguarding our Trust responsibilities:

- Develop a framework for Regional tribal environmental planning
- Complete 3 tribal consultations
- Assist in the development, implementation and compliance of safe drinking water plans to Mescalero Apache and Jicarilla Apache Tribes
- Ensure drinking water meets all health standards for at least 87% of Tribal population served by community water systems (person-month basis)
- Provide wastewater treatment training to OK Tribal representatives
- Work with Region 6 Tribal Air Subcommittee on draft Tribal Air Guidance

- Cohost the Annual Regional Air Monitoring Meeting in Tahlequah, OK in April 2012
- Conduct 30 UST inspections on Indian land
- Conduct 2 solid waste workshops
- Complete 1 leaking underground storage tank cleanup on Indian land

Focusing on Our People and Our Resources

Developing our People:

- Provide coaching to 15 supervisors
- Provide leadership training to 70-80 employees
- Provide mentoring to 30-40 employees
- Provide 18 Employee Assistance Program training classes

Ensure integrity of our financial management:

- Pilot a workload analytic for NPDES Permitting to estimate required resources needed to manage the national program
- Review 100% of recorded ULOs; deobligate unneeded funds
- Reduce ULO in expired grants by 15% by September 30, 2012

Advancing science, research, and technological innovation

- Promote state/tribal adoption of new screening surface methods and groundwater for toxic chemical effects
- Conduct pilot project with Regional employees on bottled water consumption; obtain pledges to reduce individual consumption 10%

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act:

- Ensure 95% of all DWSRF and CWSRF ARRA are completed by September 30, 2012
- Work with ARRA partners to increase financial draw downs and ensure transparency

Questions?

Please talk with your supervisor about our goals



Our 2011 Accomplishments Report is available at
www.epa.gov/region6



Workforce Diversity, **E**nvironmental Stewardship

Character, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **E**xcellence